SETTING UP OF TOBACCO BANK

*258. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Tobacco Bank to deal exclusively with problem of tobacco exporters and tobacco growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for not exploring this possibility to remove routine and perennial problems of tobacco export traders and growers; and

(d) wether the Tobacco Board has studied the liberalised policy of Government and R.B.I with regard to permitting opening up of small banks of this nature ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The problems of credit in the tobacco sector are mainly related to termination of the rupee trading arrangement with the erstwhile USSR and excess production. Govt. have taken steps to ensure timely and required availability of credit against authorised crop and export orders. Moreover, the export traders and farmers cooperatives can avail of the facilities under the liberalised banking policy.

IMPORT OF TIMBER

*259. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to import timber in the current Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Under the Export and Import Policy, 1992-97 which is to co-terminate with the Eighth Five-Year Plan period, import of all kinds of timber logs is allowed freely.

*260. [*Transferred to 21st December, 1993*]

DETAILS OF DISTRIBUTION OF ITEMS THROUGH PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN STATES

2280. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) what is the monthly quota fixed for Rice, Wheat, Kerosene, Sugar, Vegetable oil etc. for distribution through Public Distribution System for the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, State-wise, Commodities-wise;

(b) what is the actual release to these States, month wise, itemwise, specially to Gujarat State during the year 1992-93 and upto October, 1993 ;

(c) whether the quota fixed for these States particularly to the State of Gujarat are sufficient to meet their requirement; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to increase the quota of these essential commodities to these States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) A statement showing the monthwise allocation and off-take from April, 1992 till October, 1993 of rice, wheat, kerosene, sugar and imported edible oil to Governments of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh is given in Annexure. [*See*...Appendix CLXIX, Annexure No. 53].